

CLFLWD CAC Meeting

June 6, 2017

Meeting Summary

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Sam Hathaway, Randy Schumacher, Chris Mann, Melanie Castellano-Swanson, Bruce Anderson

- Jerry G. started the meeting by introducing Randy Schumacher, who is a new member of the CAC. Randy attended the District open house over the winter and became interested in being more involved with District activities. Mr. Schumacher has a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Minnesota and spent most of his career as a City Manager in the Twin Cities area. He has lived on Forest Lake for 20 years and lived on Bone Lake for 20 years before that.
- Update on District activities
 - Due to the recent rain, Comfort Lake and Bone Lake are currently under no wake ordinances. The ordinance for Bone Lake is administered through the City of Scandia, and Comfort Lake's ordinance is administered through Chisago County. While the ordinances are in effect, boats must not create wakes within 300 feet of shore on both lakes. This does still leave some room for water skiing and other recreational activity in the middle of the lakes. The ordinances will remain in effect until the lake levels are below their respective Ordinary High Water Levels.
 - The District's watercraft inspection program is up and running. A majority of the inspections taking place are Level 1 inspections which are primarily a visual inspection. The District's inspectors have periodic access to Chisago County's decontamination station, so Level 2 decontamination inspections take place at District accesses approximately one day per week. The District is looking to hire 2-3 additional inspectors, so Mike encouraged the CAC members to apply themselves or forward the job posting to interested individuals.
 - The District, along with the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP), will be hosting an aquatic invasive species (AIS) identification workshop at the District office at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 19th. The event will

be led by Steve McComas, who is one of Minnesota's most knowledgeable AIS professionals. This event is free and open to the public.

- A \$5,000 cost-share grant was recently approved to restore a residential shoreline on Bone Lake. The shoreline is currently being held in place by about 50 old automobile tires. It is estimated that this shoreline is currently contributing 4.5 pounds of phosphorus to the lake per year, so this restoration project is expected to improve the water quality of Bone Lake.

- Updates from Jack MacKenzie
 1. Turf classes and welcome coolers
 - Jack was not at the meeting, so Mike provided an update on his behalf. As part of his St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards capstone project, Jack recently hosted several turf management classes, where attendees learned to manage their turf lawns in an environmentally-responsible fashion. The classes were split up among level 1, which was related to general turf management tips, and level 2, which focused more on soil tests and reading a fertilizer bag.
 - Jack recently hosted two level 2 talks, which were attended by a total of approximately 10 individuals. He still has more than 100 coolers left at the District office and plans to continue holding events and working with lake associations to distribute the coolers.
 - Jack made an effort to work with realtors so that the realtors themselves would distribute the coolers to new lake homeowners, but there was not adequate interest in the program.
 - Each of the three area lake associations may designate volunteers that can travel around their respective lakes and distribute the coolers to new lake homeowners. That way, the lake association could solicit membership while handing out the coolers.
 2. Trails, Parks and Lakes commission updates
 - Jack was not present to provide an update.

- Updates on other activities
 1. Forest Lake High School Native plantings
 - About 30 high school students participated in a field trip at the District office on May 25th, where they improved an existing native planting project outside of the District office. Some of the plants they used were grown by the students in the school's greenhouse and the other plants were donated by

Prairie Restorations. Jeff West, the Manager of the Scandia office of Prairie Restorations, attended the field trip and taught the students about the value of native plants and how to care for a native plant garden. Overall, the field trip was a success and this collaboration will be expanded in future years.

- Jerry mentioned that the Forest Lake Lake Association has extra funds this year and would like to put native plant gardens at some of the dead end street sites around Forest Lake. These are locations where a street stops at a dead end right next to the lake. Some of these locations are currently nothing more than turf grass and erosion is visible. The City of Forest Lake, who owns all of these areas, has historically been supportive of attempts to improve these areas. It is likely that CAC members may be asked to volunteer in the planting of these projects.
- Jerry and Mike previously thought that all of the dead end street sites were on 1st Lake of Forest Lake (west basin), but Randy reminded them that at least one site is on 3rd Lake as well.

2. Forest Lake Storm Sewer stenciling

- Melanie still plans to complete a storm sewer stenciling project as her St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards project, but has not been able to make progress yet. This is a large undertaking, since the City of Forest Lake has more than 1,700 storm drain inlets.
- Jerry told Melanie that the Forest Lake Lake Association and Clear Lake Association may be interested in partnering with her to spray paint inlets that lead directly to their respective lakes.
- Melanie mentioned that local scout groups and a Forest Lake High School environmental club might be interested in helping as well.
- Melanie plans to move forward with this project in the coming months.

3. Lake Fest

- Jerry and Melanie hosted a Watershed District booth at Lake Fest in Lakeside Park. They visited with approximately 20 people.
- CAC involvement in reviewing 2018 CLFLWSD Budget
 - Jerry mentioned that the District is beginning work on its 2018 budget and that the CAC will likely be asked to provide input at their July or August meeting. Randy suggested that the quality of the budget will be enhanced when more groups of people are able to provide input.
- Review other activities that CAC decided to undertake in 2017

- The group review the 2017 priority activity list that was drafted at the November 2016 CAC meeting
 - Coordinate a student internship program
 - Educational messages on storm drain inlets (e.g. “No dumping. Drains to Lake”).
 - Regularly meet and coordinate with City of Forest Lake Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission
 - Continue collaboration with Forest Lake High School (i.e. native plant growing)
- Since the group continues to make progress on this list, Jerry asked if they would like to come up with new activities to add to the list. There was some discussion about giving out a watershed steward of the year award. Several details would need to be finalized for such an award, including: how would the nomination process work, what would the criteria be, where would the award be given out, etc.
- The group also agreed that educating District homeowners continues to be important, so education should occur whenever possible. They group said they still have neighbors who dispose of yard waste into the lake and use questionable fertilizer practices. They said that these activities highlight the continued important of landowner education.

- New business
 - Mike S. shared East Metro Water Resource Education Program’s (EMWREP’s) 2016 Annual Report. This is an organization that conducts water-themed education activities on behalf of the District for an annual membership fee. Since the District itself does not have an educator on staff, EMWREP is a useful resource at our disposal. Jerry encouraged the group to read through the Annual Report and bring suggestions to the July 11th CAC meeting for new activities that EMWREP could initiate this year or in future years. Jerry said that he would invite Angie to the July 11th CAC meeting so that she can hear the feedback on the Annual Report.
 - Bruce mentioned that in the last few years Little Comfort Lake has been experiencing dramatic filamentous algae blooms in May. This is a nuisance native plant that can grow to dense mats that impede the aesthetic quality and recreational use of the lake. Filamentous algae blooms tend to be indicative of too many nutrients such as phosphorus being in the water. Bruce recently located a pipe near the corner of Highway 8 and Health Avenue North on the

west side of Little Comfort Lake that was discharging high amounts of water into the lake. Upon examination, it appears that this pipe is draining water from the Sunrise River that passes south of that location. Bruce brought this to the attention of District staff and consultant engineering company Emmons and Olivier Resources (EOR). This area will be monitored as part of a Little Comfort Lake diagnostic study that is currently being completed by EOR.